REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

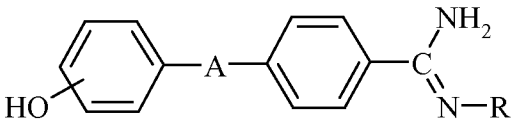
Claims 1-13 are pending in the application. Claims 9-12 are withdrawn. Claims 1 and 4 have been cancelled. The Applicants have amended claims 2-3 and 5-13 and added new claims 14-17 as shown above. Reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

CLAIM REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §103

In the Office Action on page 4, the Examiner rejected claims 1-8 and 13 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over either Schromm et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,197,824) or Anderskewitz et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,731,332) in view of Gregory et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,172,096). The Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection. Claim 2 as amended recites:

A pharmaceutical composition comprising a LTB_4 antagonist of formula

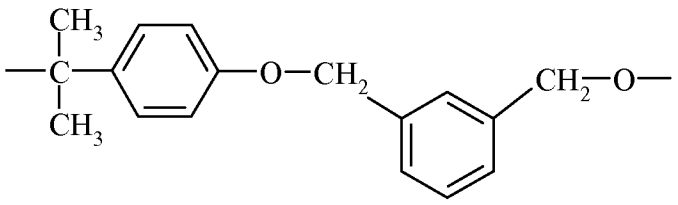
(I)



(I)

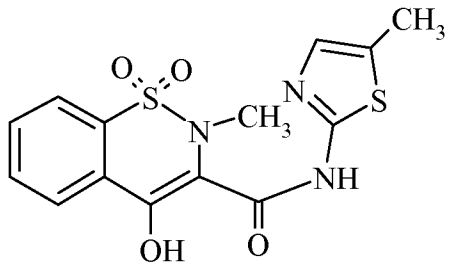
wherein

R represents a hydrogen atom or a group of formula $–CO_2$-R', in which R' represents a C_{1-6} alkyl, an optionally substituted phenyl or an optionally substituted benzyl group, wherein the optional substituents are selected from halogen atoms C_{1-6} alkyl, C_{1-6} alkoxy, cyano, nitro; C_{1-6} haloalkyl and C_{1-6} haloalkoxy groups, and A is a group selected from the formula (A1):



(A1)

or a tautomer, a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or solvate thereof and meloxicam of formula



or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or excipient.

The combination of Schromm et al. or Anderskewitz et al. with Gregory et al. does not result in the claimed invention. Claim 2 has been amended deleting formula (A2), thus Schromm et al. is removed as a reference. Surprisingly, the claimed combination of the LTB_4 antagonist and meloxicam show a synergistic effect (page 16, lines 20-25 of specification). The inhibition of a neutrophil response in mice exposed to arachidonic acid was significantly greater when the mice were treated with a combination of the claimed LTB_4 antagonist and meloxicam than when treated with either compound alone. Anderskewitz et al. teaches a combination therapy of a LTB_4 antagonist and other active substances that are used for the same indications, but does not specifically teach COX-2 inhibitors nor any synergistic effect of the combination therapy (see column 5, lines 20-22). Gregory et al. does not teach a combination of a LTB_4 antagonist and a COX-2 inhibitor that shows any synergistic effect. The only synergistic effect of any combination drug therapy that Gregory et al. teaches is "[t]he coadministration of a COX-2 inhibitor or the [LTB_4] antagonist with a low dose of the immunosuppressant Cyclosporin A [which] should enhance prolongation of graft survival" (column 28, lines 38-42). A combination of Anderskewitz et al. and Gregory et al. results in a LTB_4 antagonist coadministered with a COX-2 inhibitor plus Cyclosporin A. It would not have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art to combine the LTB_4 antagonist and meloxicam in amended claim 2 resulting in a synergistic effect. Applicants submit claim

2 as amended is allowable. Claims 3 and 5-8 are dependent on claim 2 and contain additional limitations thereto, thus are also allowable. The Applicants respectfully request the rejection to be withdrawn.

Claim 13 as amended is likewise patentable for the same reasons. Amended independent claim 13 claims a kit including the pharmaceutical composition in claim 2. The Applicants respectfully request the rejection to be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, the Applicants submit that all claims are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, both reconsideration of this application and its swift passage to issuance are earnestly solicited. In the event that there are any fees dues and owing in connection with this matter, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 11-0223.

Respectfully submitted,

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